



Designing Smart Villages in India

The world's rush to urban centres is the great challenge of the 21st century. In 2007, the world became a majority urban place. The consequences of this shift can be seen in the blight of urban poverty, with its slums and squalor, environmental degradation, and rising social tensions. But there are people working on keeping rural areas relevant and pleasant places to live. These rural advocates see a vibrant countryside as part of the solution to the world's plethora of crises.

In India, a pioneering initiative is reviving impoverished rural villages. Drawing on self-organizing methods used in India since 1200 BC, the Model Village India (www.modelvillageindia.org.in) is based around India's democratic system of Panchayats: a village assembly of people stemming back to pre-colonial times.

"Decentralizing is necessary if development is to reach the grassroots," said the concept's founder, Rangeswamy Elango, a head of the village of Kuthampakkam, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the bustling city of Chennai, and one of the 12,600 Panchayats in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

While all villages have the ability to use the Panchayat system to improve their lives, few are making the most of this system. The model villages are about showing other villages the true power they have at their disposal. And that with a plan and determination, they can increase their income and improve their quality of life, attracting more money from government and other sources to do so.

The concept has now expanded to 30 model villages. At its core it is about being positive, eschewing griping about problems and instead getting down to work to solve them.

"We demonstrate the basic infrastructure, sustainable housing, food security," said Elango. "If the government is not bothering, maybe through the local people's efforts, we can try to demonstrate a variety of development models."

As India's economy has boomed, its small towns and villages have withered. Home to the majority of the country's population, they are in crisis, with declining populations and high suicide rates. India's urban slums are where people are going – they are growing 250 percent faster than the country's population.

Originally left out of the first draft of India's constitution, Panchayats became legitimized in 1992. They are now elected in every one of the 260,000 villages in India. If they use them, the local Panchayats have extensive powers to transform the destiny of a village, with control of budgets, and decision-making power on how services are to be delivered. This ranges from the provision of clean water, to burying the dead and building roads. The trick is in getting people to realize the power they wield over their destiny and how it can transform their economic situation.

"The village-level local governments are constitutionally important

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bodies," said Elango, "but the way it is implemented is not good. The system is unable to deliver the goods to the people."

The model village approach has revived once-declining villages plagued with high unemployment, chronic alcohol abuse, and domestic violence. The residents are involved in the building of new and healthier homes, providing clean drinking water, waste facilities, education services - including an academy dedicated to teaching the skills and lessons learned by the villagers to other villages - and even trying to break down the barriers between people because of India's caste social hierarchy.

"Instead of having a big college, this is a practical people's model," Elango said. "It is not done by an academic but by a layman. The learning is spontaneous and emotional."

The African film-making success story of Nigeria's Nollywood has been joined by another fast-rising star: Kenya's Riverwood. Both are beneficiaries of the digital revolution in filmmaking over the last decade, and both are using low-cost digital filmmaking and editing to tell local stories — in the process making money and creating thousands of jobs.

The power of creative industries to create jobs and wealth has been a focus of UNESCO, through its Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity. UNESCO has been in the forefront in helping African countries re-shape their policies to take cultural industries into consideration. The promotion of cultural industries also has been incorporated into the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

What is particularly attractive about this phenomenon for the poor in the South is its rough-and-ready approach to filmmaking: combining low-cost digital cameras and film editing software on personal computers, with small budgets and fast turn-around times. Films are made on location using local people. These factors make getting into filmmaking accessible and within reach of more people.

Riverwood is named after River Road, a bustling creative and business hub in Nairobi. Riverwood operates at a furious pace, with 20 to 30 films made every week. It adds up to 1,000 films a year selling 500,000 copies at 200 Kenyan shillings (US \$2.60) a piece: 1 billion shillings (US \$13 million) in the past two years.

The whole industry is totally self-sufficient, and is following the well-trodden path laid down by Hollywood and India's Bollywood.

One of Kenya's woman directors is leading the renaissance in filmmaking. "Movies are very important because I think they are the most important art in Kenya - in Africa," said Wanjiru Kinyanjui in the film, "Riverwood, the Blooming of a Film Industry," by the World Intellectual Property Organization (www.wipo.org). "Basically, because Africans have an oral tradition, and a visual one, there is a huge market for local films."

Riverwood films share a common characteristic of on-the-spot sets and a resourceful and cheap approach.

"They are shot in two, three days and edited in a week," she continued. "They are selling because people can identify with them. The films being in Riverwood are basically the lives of people, reflecting the Kenyan way of life and entertaining Kenyans."

And it is a new form of employment for many people: "When I am making a movie, I need people: you employ very many people. And you also employ yourself. It is a real way of getting rid of poverty. Because all this talent, which is untapped, could be working."

And as Riverwood rising star director John E. Maina puts it:
"Hollywood is the model for any society that wants to develop."

While still in its infancy compared to Nigeria's Nollywood, Riverwood is already pioneering ways to protect the creative rights of filmmakers and build a financially-sustainable industry. Inspired by Hollywood's ownership of creative material, Kenyan filmmakers have come up with some ingenious

Riverwood: Kenyan Super-fast, Super-cheap filmmaking

The Africa Film Production Company has a number of Hollywood stars been joined by another fast-rising star: Kenya's Riverwood. Both are digital natives of the digital revolution in filmmaking over the last decade, and both are fast-growing, low-cost digital filmmaking and content creators have been producing hundreds of films.

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Riverwood is based in the Riverwood, a creative and business hub in Nairobi. Riverwood operates its studios in spaces with 20 to 30 films made every month, and up to 1,000 films a year selling 500,000 copies. \$5200 Kenyan shillings (US \$260) a weekend billion shillings (US \$13 million) in the past two years.

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"Riverwood, Nollywood, Hollywood, are the model for any society

that wants to develop. No society will develop without an audiovisual industry. And I think the way to protect an audiovisual industry is through strong copyright laws," he said.
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they tell the management to put for them the local DVDs from Riverwood films share a common characteristic of on-the-spot sets and a resourceful and cheap approach. Riverwood. Because they see themselves, they identify with those

images. They don't identify with the foreign American films, the "They are shot in two, three days and edited in a week," she continued. "They are selling because people can identify with them. The films being in Riverwood are basically the lives of people, reflecting the Kenyan

way of life and entertaining Kenyans."
"The audiovisual industry is a mirror. If you don't have a mirror to

see yourself, you don't know who you are. If you don't have that mirror to see yourself, you are lost. And it is a new form of employment for many people: "When I am making a movie, I need people: you employ very many people. And you also employ yourself. It is a real way of getting rid of poverty. Because all this talent, which is untapped, could be working."

LINKS:

And the Riverwood charity Center for Education and Training "Hollywood is the model for any society that wants to develop Africa through the education of girls and

empowerment of women) has projects to teach women

While still in its infancy compared to Nigeria's Nollywood, Riverwood is already pioneering ways to protect the creative rights of filmmakers and build a financially-sustainable industry. Inspired by Hollywood's

ownership of creative material, Kenyan filmmakers have come up with some ingenious solutions. Each

production company has a rubber stamp and signs on the sleeve of the DVD (digital video disc) - even if it is a pirated copy. Director finds a pirated copy, and even if pirates have forged the rubber stamp, the signature will look like a forgery.

Website: <http://www.riverwood.co.ke>

"It's based on a business model," said director John E. Maina. "It is commercial. So it is self-sustaining. This is how Bollywood is growing, this is how Hollywood is growing,

connect with all the players in the business.

As pioneers in copyright protection, Riverwood directors strongly believe they are an important part of the country's development.

4) A film by the World Intellectual Property Organization about the

Riverwood phenomenon and an introduction to its rapid growth. When you pirate a product, and the resources are not credited back to the person who created that product, he is losing out on creating a new product for you tomorrow," said Maina. "So you are the loser: tomorrow you will not have another product."

Website: <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=OwSu5kcUErE>

"Riverwood, Nollywood, Hollywood, are the model for any society that wants to develop. No society will develop without an audiovisual industry. And I think the way to protect an audiovisual industry is through strong copyright laws," he said.

"If you go to most of the cafes and the pubs in Kenya, people only turn to TV at 7 o'clock, watch the news, after the news is over, they tell the management to put for them the local DVDs from Riverwood. Because they see themselves, they identify with those images. They don't identify with the foreign American films, the soaps from South America.

"The audiovisual industry is a mirror. If you don't have a mirror to see yourself, you don't know who you are. If you don't have that mirror to see yourself, you are lost."

LINKS:

1) The global charity Camfed (dedicated to eradicating poverty in Africa through the education of girls and empowerment of women) has projects to teach women filmmaking skills.

Website: <http://uk.camfed.org>

2) Festival Panafricain du Cinéma et de la Television de Ouagadoogou 2009: Africa's biggest film festival.

Website: <http://www.fespaco.bf/>

3) Naijarules: Billing itself as the "largest online community of lovers and critics of Nollywood", an excellent way to connect with all the players in the business.

Website: <http://www.naijarules.com/vb/index.php>

4) A film by the World Intellectual Property Organization about the Riverwood phenomenon and an introduction to its up-and-coming directors.

Website: <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=OwSu5kcUErE>

Web 2.0: Networking to Eradicate Poverty

The internet phenomenon of Web 2.0 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_2.0) - the name given to the wave of internet businesses and websites such as [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com) (www.youtube.com), [Facebook](#) and [MySpace](#) transforming the way people interact with the 'Net - has also given birth to two new development-themed social networking websites.

This powerful tool to bring people together is galvanizing the resources of entrepreneurs and those who want to help the poor like never before. The sites are becoming a new weapon in the fight to eradicate poverty.

Social networking websites use various tools and applications (or 'apps' for short) to enhance the ability of users to connect and get things done. By bringing together a community of like-minded people, they are able to shorten the time it takes to organize and kick-start events. Web 2.0 can be used to build communities and social and business networks. By being able to store vast quantities of information online, it becomes faster to work and reduces the painful delays brought on by slow connections.

All these new tools are making it easier and easier for entrepreneurs to work from home, in internet centres, or anywhere there is a wireless connection - and it is slashing the costs of managing a business. All the applications are online so there is no need to be hidebound by one operating system or hardware capability.

Two newly launched social networking sites are targetting the poverty-eradication community.

One is named after the Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP) concept as conceived by C.K. Prahalad. The BOP is the 4 billion people at the base of the global economic pyramid. As Prahalad sees it, they represent a vast market of unmet needs for entrepreneurs to tackle.

New social networking website [BOP Source](#) hopes to make the money meet the market. Started by Jenara Nerenberg, BOP Source wants to put social networking tools into the hands of the world's poor. It is a place to post business ideas and collaborate with others to make them happen. It is also a tool to educate businesses about the BOP and what the poor need done. And it hopes to help NGOs broaden their relationships with their constituencies and companies.

While marketers can learn about the needs of the BOP, individuals can directly express their needs on the website and seek out the right people to solve problems.

Another social networking website is [Business Fights Poverty](#). Already at 1,000 members, it is a multimedia offering, with podcasts, videos, interviews and discussions about the role of business in addressing development goals.

LINKS:

- 1) BOP Source is a platform for companies and individuals at the BOP to directly communicate, ultimately fostering close working relationships, and for NGOs and companies to dialogue and form mutually valuable public-private partnerships that serve the BOP. **Website:** <http://bopsource.ning.com/>
- 2) Business Fights Poverty: **Business Fights Poverty** is the free-to-join, fast-growing, international network for professionals passionate about fighting world poverty through good business. **Website:** <http://businessfightspovetry.ning.com/>
- 3) [Afriville](#) is a Web 2.0 service and an African Caribbean social network. Afriville is a community website along the lines of the famous MySpace. Users are free to message and post profiles. The difference is that the user is able to choose how closed or open the networks are. The site features a state of the art music management system which allows African and Caribbean artists to get straight in touch with their fans.
- 4) Both Yahoo! And Google offer extensive free online tools for entrepreneurs and businesses that integrate seamlessly with their email services.
- 5) [Kabissa](#): Space for Change in Africa: An online African web community promoting and supporting the transition to Web 2.0 services in Africa. Offers lots of opportunities to meet people throughout Africa and learn more.
- 6) [Global Voices](#): An initiative from the Reuters news agency to aggregate the global conversation online from countries outside the US and Western Europe.
- 7) Information, Knowledge and Communication: Web 2.0 in Development Cooperation Bonn, Germany, 27-28 November 2008, Gustav Heinemann Haus. **Website:** <http://www.eadi.org/index.php?id=994>
- 8) 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009). **Website:** <http://www.ictd2009.org>

Window on the World

- *Enhancing the Role of SMEs in Global Value Chains*, Publisher: OECD. This report identifies the ways in which governments, the business community, and international organisations can facilitate SME's gainful participation in global value chains through policies, practices and targeted support programmes.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/bookshop?922008101p1&lang=en>

- *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook*, Publisher: OECD. Reviews key trends in science, technology and innovation in OECD countries and a number of major non-member economies including Brazil, Chile, China, Israel, Russia and South Africa.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/bookshop?922008101p1&lang=en>

- *Latin American Economic Outlook 2009*, Publisher: OECD. The 2009 edition of the Latin American Economic Outlook shows that governments in the region could do much more to exploit the ability of fiscal policy to boost economic growth and combat poverty and inequality.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/bookshop?922008101p1&lang=en>

- *Banking on Mobiles: Why, How, for Whom?* By Ignacio Mas and Kabir Kumar, Publisher: CGAP. With a few exceptions, the road to implementing mobile banking is littered with discontinued mobile banking projects, failed new technology vendors, and shelved deployment plans. For customers, mobile banking presents a delicate balance between a conceptually powerful opportunity (being able to transact any time, anywhere) and practical challenges (finicky menu sequences on a small screen and tiny buttons). Many banks launched into mobile banking without a well-articulated idea of what customers' problems were and how to address those problems. This report seeks to sort this problem out.

Website: <http://www.cgap.org/p/site/c/template.rc/1.9.4400>

Upcoming Events_

December

Global South-South Development Expo

New York, New York (16-19 December 2008)

Based on past experience and a strong desire by the international development community to more regularly share and exchange Southern-grown development solutions contributing to the achievement of the IADGs/MDGs, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP will be launching the Global South-

South Development Exp(GSSD Expo) from 16 to 19 December 2008 at United Nations Headquarters in New York as an integral part of, and in conjunction with, the Fifth United Nations day for South-South Cooperation.

United Nations Climate Change Conference

Poznan, Poland (1-12 December 2008)

The intergovernmental negotiation process primarily encompasses the Conference of the Parties, the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, Subsidiary Bodies meetings and a series of workshops. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the "supreme body" of the Convention; it is the highest decision-making authority. It is an association of all the countries that are Parties to the Convention.

Website:

unfccc.int/meetings/items/2654.php

Building Competitive Local Economies

Hanoi, Vietnam (1-5 December 2008)

Are you looking for new insights on local and regional development, and you want to share and discuss your experience with practitioners from other countries?

Website: <http://www.mesopartner.com/asia-academy/>

Sustainable Brands International

Miami Beach, Florida (9-11 December 2008)

Sustainable Brands International is home for brand leaders from companies of all shapes and sizes who are positioning themselves for long term success in the 21st Century. At SBI you'll find the antidote to negative world news. A place where change makers gather to share their latest learning and ideas about how to create sustainable business value. SBI convenes a dynamic mix of big global brands and innovative start ups. Of product designers, sustainability thought leaders and brand communications experts.

Website: <http://www.sustainablebrandsinternational.com/>

Promote 2008: International Exhibition for Enterprises

Yaounde, Cameroon (5-14 December 2008)

Sponsored by the Swiss Chambers of Commerce, this is an opportunity to build trade deals with the cantons of Switzerland.

Email: ccsac@swisscham-africa.ch or Erwin.ehsam@swiss.com

Website: www.promote2008.org

5th International Conference on Innovation and Management (ICIM2008)

Maastricht, The Netherlands (10-11 December 2008)

Organized by UNU-MERIT (The Netherlands) and supported by Wuhan University of Technology (China) and Yamaguchi University (Japan), this conference will bring together academics, practitioners and other professionals involved in the field of innovation and management.

Website: <http://www.merit.unu.edu/ICIM2008/>

Current Trends in International Development Cooperation & their Implications for Evaluation

Marktbreit, Germany (11-13 December 2008)

Introduction to recent trends and new instruments of development cooperation; Implications for programme management and evaluation methods and instruments; Requirements and consequences for evaluation missions and mission reports; Job sharing and contribution to data gathering and report writing; Best practices and information sharing.

Contact: Ms. Bettina

Nasgowitz, Tel. +49 7021-9708717, headoffice@feez.org

Website:

http://www.feez.org/feez/zusatzmodul_2/

2009

January

World Economic Forum

Davos, Switzerland (28 January 2009)

The Annual Meeting integrates the top decision-makers from all sectors of global society and engages them in partnerships to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Participation is by invitation only and strictly limited to the criteria and quota of each stakeholder group.

Website:

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February

Localisation on Environmental Business and Supply Base in India

New Delhi, India (3 February 2009)

The goal of the Second International Scientific and Business Congress on Protecting the Climate is to further the development and transfer of clean technologies, as well as the creation of a localisation program in India with the emphasis on private business.

Website:

www.EuroAkadem.com/climate

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2009

New Delhi, India (5 February 2009)

The DSDS a global forum that seeks to provide long-term solutions for sustainable development. It has witnessed participation by global stakeholders including heads of state/government, ministers, and dignitaries comprising Nobel laureates, development practitioners, scientists, academicians, and corporate leaders from across the world. The summit in 2009 would seek to reinforce the climate change agenda of the previous year.

Website:

dsds.teriin.org/2009/index.htm

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March

Fair Trade Business Conference 2009

Portland, Oregon, USA (27-29 March 2009)

As it celebrates its 15th birthday, the Fair Trade Federation will bring together leaders in the field of fair trade and social enterprise to discuss key issues and offer practical training to improve operations.

Website:

www.FairTradeFederation.org

April

3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009)

Doha, Qatar (17-19 April 2009)

The 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009) will be held 17-19 April 2009 at Carnegie Mellon's state-of-the-art campus in Doha, Qatar. This conference will act as a focal point for new scholarship in the field of ICT and international development. Confirmed speakers include a Keynote by William H. Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corporation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Website: <http://www.ictd2009.org>

Training Opportunities

ONGOING

- **Microenterprise and Development Institute New Hampshire 2008**

Manchester, New Hampshire, USA (8-21 June 2008)

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

—The MDI New Hampshire offers another highly relevant programme for microfinance and community development practitioners. The two-week programme presents 19 courses in three Knowledge Tracks: Microfinance, Pro-Poor Enterprise Development and Community Economic Development. Academic credit and Masters degree options are available.

Email: w.maddocks@snhu.edu

Telephone: 603-644-3124

Website: www.mdi-nh.org

- **Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs**

[Grameen Info](#)

CAREERS

- **New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**

–Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africacareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

■ Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

–A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social bookmarking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

■ Funding - Google.org

–While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment. **Website:** www.google.org

■ Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

–This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

■ Piramal Foundation in India

–Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

■ The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

–This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: [Pioneers of Prosperity](http://PioneersofProsperity)

■ African Writers Fund

–Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: <http://www.trustafrica.org>

■ Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

–Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

Email: namstct@snl.com;

namstct@bol.net.in;

apknam@gmail.com;

Website: <http://www.scidev.net>; <http://www.namstct.org>

■ Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

–Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

[Click here for more information](#)

■ **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

–AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: <http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org/>

■ **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za>

■ **Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

–A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

■ **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

–They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs.

Website: <http://www.echoinggreen.org/>

■ **2008 Sustainable Banking Awards**

–The Financial Times, in partnership with IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, today launched the 2008 edition of the FT Sustainable Banking Awards, the leading awards for triple bottom line banking.

Two new categories - Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid, and Sustainable Investor of the Year - have been added to the ground-breaking programme.

The awards, now in their third year, were created by the FT and IFC to recognise banks that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations.

Website: <http://www.ifc.org>

■ **Challenge InnoCentive**

–A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com/>

You can read more about the challenges here: <http://www.rockfound.org>

■ **Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

–Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialedge.org

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)

- [ReliefWeb Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [ReliefWeb Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [TrustAfrica](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)

- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)

- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)

Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta
[\[cosmas.gitta@undp.org\]](mailto:cosmas.gitta@undp.org) Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation